
Faith-Based Organization Phase Two Reopening Strategy in Response to COVID-19

July 17, 2020 Update

There has been clarification as to the nature of places of worship in relation to the gatherings or events and places of assembly. Places of worship are considered assemblies and are not required to submit the special event form for weekly services. Places of assembly must comply with the directive issued by the governor on May 19 on Page 4 of Appendix B. Please note the following **requirements for Phase Two** beginning Monday, June 1, 2020:

1. The maximum number of attendees is 75 percent of normal capacity. Maintain 6 feet between non-family member groups.
2. Signage must be posted with the following or substantially similar wording:
 - a. "Patrons with fever, shortness of breath, a cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms must refrain from using this facility."
 - b. "Mask or face covering use required for ages five and older."
3. Facilities should try to control customer flow in a manner that maximizes social distancing such as signage or ropes and directing flow in one direction.
4. Provide hand sanitizer or hand washing stations throughout the venue whenever possible.
5. Vulnerable individuals, as defined below, should continue to stay home to protect their health.
 - a. A vulnerable individual is one who is over 65 years of age, has a serious underlying health condition (such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, or asthma), or has a compromised immune system.
 - b. Congregants who live with vulnerable residents can carry the virus home. They should take precautions to isolate themselves from those who are vulnerable.

Lewis and Clark Public Health has the following **additional guidance** to help protect staff and congregants from disease.

1. **Develop a written plan** to manage Phase Two operations. Be sure to address any issues unique to your operations and location.
2. Continue to offer virtual services or other alternatives for those who are vulnerable.
3. Suspend coffee and snack services.

4. Face coverings are required in all indoor spaces open to the public as stated in the Directive issued by the governor on July 15, 2020. Indoor spaces include meeting rooms, lobbies, common areas, bathrooms and other spaces where people gather.
 - a. The face covering needs to fully cover the mouth and nose.
 - b. A cloth face covering will help contain any respiratory droplets from the wearer and protect other people in case you are infected. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
 - c. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing and good personal hygiene.
 - d. You can make cloth face coverings at home or purchase them. If you want to make your own face mask, links to reliable sources for patterns can be found on our web page. www.lccountymt.gov/covid-19
5. **Exceptions to the Requirement for a Face Covering include the following:**
 - a. Children under the age of 5. All children between the ages of two and four, however, are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering;
 - b. Children under the age of 2 should NOT wear a face covering;
 - c. Persons consuming food or drinks in an establishment that offers food or drinks for sale;
 - d. Persons engaged in an activity that makes wearing a face covering impractical or unsafe, such as strenuous physical exercise or swimming;
 - e. Persons seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired;
 - f. Persons giving a speech or engaging in an artistic, cultural, musical, or theatrical performance for an audience, provided the audience is separated by at least six feet of distance;
 - g. Persons temporarily removing their face covering for identification purposes;
 - h. Persons required to remove face coverings for the purpose of receiving medical evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment; or
 - i. Persons who have a medical condition precluding the safe wearing of a face covering.
6. Keep congregants and employees informed about how to protect themselves and others. Posters are available at the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).
7. **Support respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene.** If possible, place alcohol-based hand sanitizer, tissues, and trash receptacles at every entrance.
 - a. Provide hand-washing facilities with soap and water and single-use towels. If soap and water are not readily available, provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
8. **Routinely clean** all frequently touched surfaces, such as pews, countertops, and doorknobs.
 - a. Use the cleaning agents that you usually use in these areas, and follow the directions on the labels.
 - b. A list of sanitizers effective for COVID-19 is located on the [EPA website](https://www.epa.gov). Follow specified contact times and mix rates.

If you suspect Coronavirus, contact your medical provider.

For a link to this document and other local information: www.lccountymt.gov/covid-19